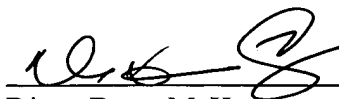


It is requested that the references be considered by the Examiner and be made of record as part of the available prior art under 37 C.F.R. § 1.104.

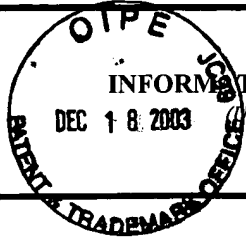
Respectfully submitted,

Dated: December 15, 2003



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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION**

DEC 18 2003

(Use several sheets if necessary)

Docket Number (Optional)

4296-166 US

Application Number

10/632,762

Applicant(s)

HIRAO et al.

Filing Date

September 1, 2003

Group Art Unit

1621

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*EXAMINER INITIAL	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
		4,365,087	12/21/1982	Kadowaki et al.	562	534	
		4,873,368	10/10/1989	Kadowaki et al.	562	532	
		2001/0021788	09/13/2001	Matsumoto et al.	562	532	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	Translation	
							YES	NO
		EP 1 116 709 A1	18.07.2001	Europe				

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP Section 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.